

INDONESIA

MEULABOH FISH & VEGETABLE MARKET PROJECT INAUGURATION

On March 22, USAID and Catholic Relief Services inaugurated the new Langkak Fish & Vegetable Market in Meulaboh. The original fish and vegetable market, completely destroyed by the earthquake and tsunami, was occupied by 30 traders selling fish from local boats.

Cash-for-work activities to clear debris began in January 2005. A temporary market of plywood was erected in July, as the new earthquake resistant building was being designed, and permissions for disputed land rights were being granted. To promote best use of the market, a group of 16 women vendors received a grant and training to hone their entrepreneurial skills. By November, construction of the permanent market was underway. Completed in March, the new 10 x 9 meter market is an open-air two-story facility with an enclosed office on the second floor.



Woman Selling Produce
Photo: Kevin McGlothlin/USAID

This is one of eleven markets constructed by Catholic Relief Services through a grant from USAID in the districts of Aceh Barat and Nagan Raya.

ONE-YEAR COMMEMORATION OF NIAS EARTHQUAKE



*U.S. Ambassador B. Lynn Pascoe and
BRR Director Kuntoro Mangkusubroto*
Photo: Thomas Morris/USAID

The one-year commemoration of the Nias earthquake took place in Gunung Sitoli, Nias on March 28. The 8.7 level earthquake of March 28, 2005, which would have attracted worldwide notice had it not followed the December 2004 tsunami disaster, caused significant damage to Nias:

- more than 850 died;
- 6,000 people were injured;
- several thousand people fled to Sumatra;
- 3,500 people currently reside in tents due to the destruction of 13,000 houses;
- 800 kilometers of road were rendered impassable;
- 403 bridges were rendered impassable; and
- twelve ports and piers were destroyed.

The event included a visit to a mass grave, a handover of 615 new houses to community members, a children's art competition, and a visit to Gunung Sitoli Hospital by U.S. Ambassador B. Lynn Pascoe. The hospital benefited greatly from the work of UNICEF and USAID in water and sanitation services, which provided medical supplies and support to the hospital through the International Medical Corps.

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USAID BREAKS GROUND ON HOUSING PROGRAM ALONG THE WEST COAST OF ACEH



*Thomas Morris, USAID Representative to Aceh and North Sumatra, delivers remarks.
Photo: Caroline Gredler/USAID*

USAID has embarked on the first phase of a US\$10 million project to construct housing to resettle survivors of the December 26, 2004 tsunami. Through its implementing partner, CHF International, 65 houses will be constructed in Geumbak Meualon hamlet of Mon Ikeun village. An additional 57 permanent houses in Pulot village are concurrently being constructed.

Each of these villages will respectively house more than 200 people who have taken shelter in temporary camps or the homes of relatives. The houses will be constructed in compliance with building codes for permanent homes, and include special features to safeguard against earthquake

damage. A Community Resettlement Committee comprised of local villagers has helped design the homes and will work to ensure transparency throughout the execution of the project. The project will also reconstruct essential economic infrastructure in communities devastated by the tsunami, such as small ports, fishing vessels, ice-making facilities and markets.

COFFEE PRODUCTION: GROUNDS FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

Thousands of tsunami-affected people, including many who had been displaced by years of civil conflict between the Government of Indonesia and the Free Aceh Movement, are benefiting greatly from a USAID initiative to increase organic coffee production. Now, subsequent to the tsunami and with peace accords in place, many of them, including large amounts of displaced persons from the tsunami, are returning to the Takengon area to return to coffee production. Employment opportunities are rapidly expanding.

To provide incentives to farmers to re-cultivate this land, USAID, through the National Cooperative Business Association, provides assistance to the local coffee cooperative, which has increased its membership since the program began from 400 to over 1,500 members.

The project is laying the base for the long-term competitive position of the coffee sector in Aceh, by creating more value added for the product, which, in turn, increases profits for local farmers and employment for laborers.



*Neglected Coffee Crop to be Renovated
Photo: Sam Filiaci/NCBA*